sustainable returns to the Government, without depleting the corpus. 75% of the annual income will be used to finance selected social sector schemes, which promote education, health and employment. The residual 25% of the annual income of NIF will be used to meet the capital investment requirements of profitable and revivable PSUs.

Discussion of Budget 2007-08

†196. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the sectors from which the representatives were invited by him to the discussion held in pre-budget exercise for the Union Budget 2007-08 alongwith the details of discussion so held;

(b) whether representatives of seventy per cent of population of the country were invited for discussion, if so, the details of the discussion held with them and if not, the reasons for not doing so; and

(c) whether the Minister of Agriculture himself had written to him to lay emphasis on agriculture sector in the budget and also gave a suggestion, if so, the action taken by him on the letter of the Minister of Agriculture and his suggestion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Pre-budget meetings were held by the Finance Minister with the representatives of agriculturists, economists, Industrialists and trade unions. The representatives presented their different view points and concerns relating to their respective sectors. In these wide-ranging discussions, suggestions which could be possibly incorporated in the budget were also made. These deliberations form a vital input in the budget making process. Press releases outlining the important issues which were discussed in the meetings were also issued. Minister of Agriculture has written to the Finance Minister giving his suggestions for the budget. These suggestions are being examined as a part of the budget making exercise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.